

Saint Francis de Sales Church Bulletin

December 13, 2009 ~ Sherman Oaks, California



In your prayers, please remember the repose of the soul of
Jorge Carrasco, Robert Mckinnon, Patricia Reischl

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK AND RECOVERING OF OUR COMMUNITY *especially*
Moe Rush-Bryant, David Story, Brooks Paul, Margaret Tarin Hensley, Olga D'Este, Catherine Street, Faye Schafuss, Ernest Dewsnap, Clarita Hernandez, Alicia Gomez, Susan Dalglish, Melissa Manning Wilmot, Marilyn Bardwil, Robina Dumas, Floyd Romeck, Theresia Hubel, Rocco Carter, Peter Thompson, Calleigh Stone, Micki Kadar, Monica A. Faraldo, Steve Mccahulk, Sam Sosna, Rocco Wren, Kelly Hare, Joey Harper, Sr. Jane Faurot, Dee Gillespie, Emma Ramirez, Cynthia Kotzman, Lucy Fleming McGrath, Sr. Greta Stewart, Teresa Pina-Jiminez, Spencer Hawk, Jennifer Robin, and Eileen Breeden.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK SATURDAY- DECEMBER 12

8:30 AM -In Memory of Bob De Chellis
5:00 PM -For the Intentions of the Barkovich family

SUNDAY- DECEMBER 13

8:00 AM -For the Intentions of the Parish
10:00 AM -In Memory of Mary Byrnes
12:00 PM -In Memory of Patricia Reischl
5:00 PM -In Memory of Jorge Carrasco

MONDAY- DECEMBER 14

8:30 AM -For the Intentions of Andrew Reising

TUESDAY- DECEMBER 15

8:30 AM -In Memory of Harry Maczewski

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16

8:30 AM -In Memory of Robert McKinnon

THURSDAY- DECEMBER 17

8:30 AM -For the U.S. Military Service

FRIDAY- DECEMBER 18

8:30 AM -In Memory of Sarah Welsh

SATURDAY- DECEMBER 19

8:30 AM -For the Intentions of Eileen Breeden
5:00 PM -In Memory of Bob De Chellis

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS (12/20)

First Reading - From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. He shall shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm - Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading - By Christ doing the will of God, namely, offering himself, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel - Elizabeth speaks to her cousin Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:39-45).

MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to help our Parish Family discover rewarding and fulfilling opportunities to grow spiritually; to form relationships; to serve Our Lord and to help others."



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 12/13 HOLY LAND ARTICLES FOR SALE. See below.

Retirement Fund for Religious

9AM-CRE Classes.

10AM-Little Church.

Monday 12/14

1PM-SFDS Adult Club Luncheon. School Auditorium

Tuesday 12/15

7PM-RCIA. Parish Center.

Wednesday 12/16

3-PM-Children's Choir practice. In Church.

7:30PM-Meditation Prayer group.

Thursday 12/17

9AM-Bible Study. Parish Center.

Sunday 12/20

9AM-CRE Classes.

10AM-Little Church.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. John Eudes December 14 7:30pm

St. Bridget of Sweden December 14 7pm

St Catherine of Siena December 14 7:30pm

St. Mel December 15 7pm

St. Bernardine of Siena December 15 7:30pm

St. John Baptist De la Salle December 16* 7:30pm

St. Euphrasia December 16 7:30pm

St. Cyril of Jerusalem December 21 7:30pm

Our Lady of the Valley December 21 7:30pm

Our Lady of Grace December 21 7pm

St. Francis de Sales December 22 7pm

Our Lady of Lourdes December 22 7:30pm

* Will be held at St. Euphrasia.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

3:30 p.m. Children's Choir

4 p.m. Children's Vigil Mass

6 p.m. Christmas Vigil and Midnight.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th

8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 Noon.

There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on

Christmas night.





CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

Week of 11/26-12/2 Collection.

Collection	\$11,702.00
Parish Pay	\$ 1,711.00
Total	\$13,413.00

Thank you for your contributions.

SFDS ADULT CLUB 2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Luncheon Meetings: - Every 3rd Monday of the month. Call Maurine Backus at 818-784-0605 or Renee O'Malley at (818) 986-6369 for reservations..

Club Membership: Join the SFDS Adult Club and its many year-long activities and projects for only \$15. Call Cora Kinsella for membership at (818) 990-5196.

Board Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Executive Committee Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month in Parish Center at 1:30 pm.

Free Beach Parking at County Beaches for 62+: obtain your parking passes (M-F) by sending a copy of your driver's license and car registration to Department of Beaches and Harbors, 13837 Fiji Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 or call (310) 305-9503.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to place your news items in the Bulletin, cut off times and dates for this holiday season are Sunday, Dec.20th at 12 noon for the Dec.27th bulletin and Sunday, Dec. 27th for the Jan, 3, 2010 bulletin., you may do so via e-mail. The address is:

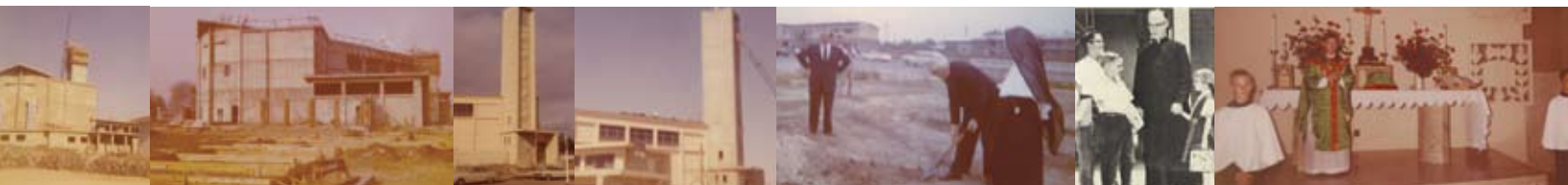
sfdsbulletin@sbcglobal.net

SFDS GIVING TREES

Our Annual SFDS Christmas "Giving Trees", this year 3, are in the church, and will be decorated with gift tags, each bearing the name and the age of a needy individual. You, our generous parishioners, are invited to take home a tag (or two!) and add this person to your Christmas list. We ask that you buy a new item of your choosing for the individual, wrap the gift and return the gift with the gift tag on it to the Parish Office by Monday, December 21st.

This year our gifts will go to benefit the Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles. The mission of the Good Shepherd Shelter is to provide a temporary haven for battered and abused women and their children. The shelter provides a safe and loving community where mothers can address the painful past and begin new, violence-free lives. At Good Shepherd Shelter, the mothers choose to break the cycle of abuse and take on the leadership of and responsibility for their families. The long-term care guides families through the complex social, psychological and educational issues that confront them. There are currently twelve families of battered and abused women with their children residing at the Good Shepherd Shelter in Los Angeles.

Please open your hearts to these needy families, especially during this holiday season.





CUB SCOUT PACK 74 TOY DRIVE

Cub Scout Pack 74 invites the Saint Francis Parish to join it in an Advent celebration: The Second Annual Toy Drive for the children of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission and Loaves & Fishes. Last year, the Parish Center dining room saw boxes stacked to the ceiling with toys of every type. Your generosity was beyond belief. Just days before Christmas, our scouts personally distributed the collection to young children of similar ages to themselves. On that day, there wasn't a frown to be found. Please bring a smile to a young boy or girl in our community by joining in this year's drive. There will be Christmas decorated collection bins to receive your unwrapped toys located in the church vestibules during the drive, December 1-18th.

SFDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Support the SFDS Scholarship Fund. Simply register your Ralphs, Vons, Macys and Albertsons loyalty cards to SFDS and earn money while you shop. It is as simple as that. Last year we earned over \$2100 for the scholarship fund. If you need more information call Lisa Sanders at the Parish Center or email the scrip office at mrebbe@stfrancisds.org.

Remember, you must register your cards EVERY year to continue earning money for SFDS.

MOTHER BALCAZAR HOME FOR SENIORS

Attention Senior Citizens (and younger with disabilities), spend your Golden Days with the Franciscan Sisters at Mother Gertrude Balcazar's home for Senior Citizens. For more information, please contact (818) 898-1546.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST?

For further information, please contact or H. Richard Closson, Director, Trust and Estate Programs (213) 637-7472, or e-mail HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org or the website www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD...

All are welcome to join the SFDS Meditation Prayer Group. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. for one hour in the church. The group follows the teachings of Fr. John Main, a Benedictine Monk, who uses a combination of silence, stillness and prayer. Those who are drawn to silent meditation as a way of experiencing the divine presence in their lives are encouraged to attend. "God is not only out there but also within."

To learn more about the group's practice, go online to The World Community of Christian Meditation at www.wccm.com.

KNIGHTS NEWS

SFDS Knights will has its monthly clothing and non-perishable food collection for the poor and homeless in our community every First Sunday of the month.

Please bring your items to the Church and drop off before or after Masses in the bins provided. Loaves and Fishes is in real need for the increased number of people requiring assistance.

EARNING 4 LEARNING

at The Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks

Participating in Earning 4 Learning is easy! Westfield Sherman Oaks Fashion Square is donating to local schools as part of their customer appreciation program. They give SFDS 10 points for every dollar spent for most shops & food court eateries at the mall (5 points per dollar for Macy's and



Bloomington). The more points we have, the more money SFDS School earns. There is no catch and no cost to you. Just buy the things you normally would at the Sherman Oaks Fashion Square & then show your receipts to the Concierge (located on the first floor by Pottery Barn.) Receipts are logged, stamped and returned to you. All of your regular and holiday shopping, as well as your food court purchases qualify! The program runs from November 1st to May 31st. From November to December, please collect your receipts as the turn in dates do not start until January 1st. (However, November and December receipts apply once registered in January.) For more information, you can log onto http://www.shoppingpartnership.com/points/westfield_fashion_square.htm

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTION CARDS

Mass Intention Cards are now available. They are a good way to remember loved ones, living and deceased, with this beautiful Mass Intention Card. The price is only \$7! These cards will be available for purchase in the Parish Center during regular business hours.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Father, in every generation You provide
Ministers of Christ and the Church.
We come before you now, asking that You
Call forth more men to serve our Archdiocese
In the ministerial priesthood.
Give us priests who will lead and guide
Your holy people gathered by Word and Sacrament.
Bless us with priestly vocations so that we can continue
To be a truly Eucharistic Church,
Strengthened in our discipleship of Jesus Christ,
Your only son.
Raise up, we pray, men who are generous in their service,
Willing to offer their lives and all their gifts
For Your greater glory and for the good of Your people.
We make our prayer in the presence and power
Of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

SIMBANG GABI AT ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Simbang Gabi, the Novena of Masses from December 16 through December 24, is a cherished custom in the Philippines. St. Jane Frances de Chantal will offer its Simbang Gabi on December 18th. St. Charles Borromeo will offer its Simbang Gabi on December 19th. St. Francis de Sales will offer its Simbang Gabi on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 pm.

IS THIS MOVIE SUITABLE FOR MY CHILDREN?

Reviews and ratings of an extensive list of movies, both current and archived is available at www.usccb.org/movies/. This service is provided by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Office of Film and Broadcasting.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FROM THE HOLY LAND

Mr. Hanna Mussallam will be here after the morning Masses today Sunday, December 13th with a wide variety of religious articles from the Holy Land for sale. The land of Our Savior's birth, life and death knows nothing but conflict and hardship. The security wall has reduced terrorist attacks but has also choked off tourism to Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. The dwindling Christian communities in the Holy Land depend so much on tourism for livelihood. Job loss, low wages, illness and malnutrition are widespread among the small Christian communities.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace make us completely holy.

May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forever faithful is the One who calls us-God our Father!

Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
for the revelation of the glory

of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!

To him be glory forever!

Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

-From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 127

REJOICE!

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally referred to as Gaudete Sunday. This is the Advent Sunday of joy. Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading call us to express joy in three ways. We are summoned to "shout for joy" (Zephaniah 3:14), to "cry out with joy" (Isaiah 12:6), and to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Expressing Christian joy is quite distinct from the kind of joy we express, for instance, when our favorite sports team wins an important game. That kind of joy is fleeting. Christian joy is an inner peace and spiritual happiness that is developed throughout our lives and sustains us even when we struggle. It is the kind of joy that is infectious. Others can tell that there is simply something different about us. Let us rejoice this day, for to us shall come Emmanuel. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co

Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

December 12-13

Women and men in religious life face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077.00 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000.00. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all women and men religious and give generously to today's second collection.

Please go to www.retiredreligious.org for more information.

Year-End Financial Planning and Charitable Gifts

As you consider how best to make your charitable gifts this fall, you may want to pay special attention to what to give and the timing of your gifts. Cash and checks are the most popular ways to make charitable gifts. When such gifts are deducted on your federal tax return, it can be possible to eliminate tax of up to half of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Larger gifts may be used to reduce taxes in up to five additional years. Also, unlike certain other deductions, charitable gifts are deductible from both regular and alternative minimum taxes. To make a gift to St. Francis de Sales Church or School, the correct designation is: "The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, a corporation sole for the benefit of St. Francis de Sales Church (or School)."

Annual Respect Life Mass

Each January, to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, there is a special Mass to sing God's praises and affirm the sanctity of all human life. This Mass will be on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels at 555 W. Temple St. in Los Angeles.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bullying Is a Form of Abuse

Did you know that bullying is a form of abuse, and therefore is forbidden in our Catholic schools?

Bullying typically consists of direct behaviors, such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, shoving and stealing. But it might also be indirect, such as spreading rumors that cause victims to be socially isolated through intentional exclusion. Cyberbullying, which involves the use of the Internet or mobile phones to send inappropriate messages and images to or about others, is also behavior that is not tolerated in our Catholic schools. If you suspect bullying of a child at school, please contact the school principal with your concerns.

For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at 213- 637-7650.

